

## Further additions to the known avifauna of the Impenetrable (Bwindi) Forest, southwestern Uganda (1989–1991)

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The Impenetrable (Bwindi) Forest National Park (321 km<sup>2</sup>) in the extreme southwest of Uganda (0°53–1°08S, 29°35–29°50E) holds one of the richest forest avifaunas in Africa (Keith *et al.* 1969, Friedmann & Williams 1970), including a particularly important montane avifauna (Keith 1980, Prigogine 1985, Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett 1990). The Impenetrable is known to hold 69 of the 77 montane forest bird species of the Albertine Rift Afromontane Region (Keith *et al.* 1969) and 21 of the Region's 36 endemics (Prigogine 1985a). This is apparently because of its considerable altitudinal range (1160–2600 m) and probable role as a Pleistocene refuge (Keith 1980, Hamilton 1981).

The most significant accounts of the bird species which occur in the Impenetrable Forest are those of Keith *et al.* (1969), Friedmann & Williams (1970), Keith (1980), Butynski & Kalina (1989) and Kalina & Butynski (1991). Butynski (1984) provides a detailed description of the forest and reviews the scientific and conservation literature concerned.

In early 1989 we presented a list of additions to the forest's avifauna (Butynski & Kalina 1989). Since then our work has continued on a variety of conservation and research activities in and around the forest and we have made further observations on the avifauna. In the present paper we provide another list of additions. While some mist netting was undertaken, all but one of the additions are based on sightings or calls. Most of the species added are relatively easy to identify with certainty even when not in the hand.

Here we add 28 species to the list of birds known to occur within the borders of the Impenetrable (Bwindi) Forest National Park (Kalina & Butynski 1991). Of these, six are forest species, 16 are forest edge or non-forest species, and six are Palaearctic migrants. This brings the total number of species on the list to 336. Of these, 180 are "forest species" (which usually, or always, use forest and forest-related habitats), 95 are "forest/non-forest species" (which use both forest and non-forest habitats), 40 are "non-forest species", and 21 are Palaearctic migrants.

The species' number, sequence and nomenclature used follow Britton (1980). An asterisk before the species number denotes that we consider the bird to be a forest species in this locality.

### Questionable species for the Impenetrable Forest

We suspect that two species recorded as occurring in the forest were incorrectly identified. Four other bird species need further confirmation. In addition, we have noticed that two species on the list were collected outside the borders of the forest and have yet to be sighted within its boundaries. It would not be surprising if these eight species were eventually shown to occur. Nonetheless, we recommend that they be removed from the forest's bird list until their presence can be confirmed. Keith *et al.* (1969) provides a similar "hypothetical" listing of five species whose presence still requires confirmation.

**72 *Anas undulata* Yellow-billed Duck** This species may have been seen by A. Katende, Mubwindi Swamp, 2130 m, August 1990. Park rangers say that a duck with a "yellow bill" can be seen at Two Pond Swamp, 1850 m. This species is frequently seen on the crater lakes of the Virunga Volcanoes, 30 km to the south (Wilson 1982).

**216 *Podica senegalensis* African Finfoot** R. Drewes briefly saw a bird resembling this species fly up from Two Pond Swamp, 1850 m, 4 November 1990. If confirmed, this would extend the East African altitudinal limit for this species upward by 50 m and be the first record for southwest Uganda (Britton 1980, Short *et al.* 1990).

**\*645 *Dicrurus ludwigii* Square-tailed Drongo** We are familiar with this species from our work in Kibale Forest where it is common. Given the high altitude at which it was seen (2200 m), and the fact that we have not seen this conspicuous species again in the Impenetrable Forest, we are now reasonably certain that we misidentified an immature *Melaenornis ardesiaca* Yellow-eyed Flycatcher. The immature of this flycatcher, unlike the adult, has a reddish-brown eye similar to that of *D. ludwigii*.

**\*673 *Phyllanthus atripennis* Capuchin Babbler** Britton (1980) and Short *et al.* (1990) mention a sight record for this species at 1700 m. This needs confirmation. The only place in East Africa where it is known to occur is Bwamba Forest.

**681 *Turdoides jardineii* Arrow-marked Babbler** Friedmann & Williams (1970) note that this bird was collected outside the forest at Ruhizha.

**967 *Terpsiphone rufiventer* Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher** One bird, possibly of this species, seen by W. Moeller, Buhoma, 1500 m, 5 November 1990. Given that this is a widespread species in the forests of western Uganda, it should occur in the Impenetrable.

**981 *Anthus novaeseelandiae* Richard's Pipit** Friedmann & Williams (1970) note that this bird was collected outside the forest at Ruhizha.

**\*1105 *Nectarinia ludovicensis* Montane Double-collared Sunbird** Britton (1980) was the first to indicate that this species had been seen in the forest, but he did not give the source for his information. Bennun (1986) states that, above 2100 m, he observed *N. ludovicensis* much more often than *N. preussi*. Based upon collected and sighted birds, Keith *et al.* (1969) found *N. preussi* from 1200–2460 m and never recorded *N. ludovicensis*. Likewise, we, A. D. Forbes-Watson, R. Wilson, J. S. Ash, J. Miskell, R. J. Dowsett, F. Dowsett-Lemaire, I. Francis, M. A. C. Coverdale, and several other people familiar with sunbirds failed either to capture or see *N. ludovicensis* in the Impenetrable. The species is common in the Virunga Volcanoes 30 km to the south (Britton 1980, Wilson 1982, Short *et al.* 1990, Butynski & Kalina, unpubl. data). It now appears that the only place in East Africa where this species occurs is the Virunga Volcanoes (Mgahinga Gorilla National Park).

### Additions to the Impenetrable Forest bird list

**84 *Gypohierax angolensis* Palm-nut Vulture** One seen by TMB, Zaïre-Uganda border, 1700 m, 23 April 1989. Solitary birds seen several times in the area since.

**102 *Accipiter badius* Shikra** One seen by P. Van Daele, G. Debonnet and P. Vercommen below Ruhizha, 2200 m, 21 September 1990. One seen by A. D. Forbes-Watson and TMB, Ruhizha, 2300 m, 16 February 1991.

**107 *Accipiter minullus* Little Sparrowhawk** One seen by P. Van Daele, G. Debonnet and P. Vercommen below Ruhizha, 2200 m, 21 September 1990. One seen by I. Francis, TMB and N. Penford at Buoma, 1500 m, 3 November 1991.

**109 *Accipiter ovampensis* Ovampo Sparrowhawk** One seen by I. Francis, TMB and N. Penford on forest edge at Buhoma, 1500 m, 3 November 1991. This may be the first Uganda record west of Mengo (Britton 1980).

**118 *Aquila wahlbergi* Wahlberg's Eagle** One seen by TMB, D. E. Pomeroy and L. A. Bennun at Ruhizha, 2300 m, 27 August 1991 and one seen by I. Francis and TMB near Rwamunyonyi Hill, 2500 m, 26 October 1991. Recorded for the Virunga Volcanoes, 30 km to the south, by Wilson (1982).

**127 *Hieraaetus spilogaster* African Hawk Eagle** Two seen by J. E. Miskell, Ruhinda Ridge, 2300 m, 29 May 1989 and a probable sighting of one adult at the same location by the authors.

**128 *Hieraaetus pennatus* Booted Eagle** One seen by A. D. Forbes-Watson, Ruhizha, 2400 m, 17 February 1991, another seen by the same observer and TMB, Ruhinda Ridge, 2500 m, 19 February 1991. They also saw a flock of about 30 probable *H. pennatus* flying high over Mubwindi Swamp, 2200 m, 25 February 1991.

**148 *Falco biarmicus* Lanner Falcon** One seen by A. D. Forbes-Watson and TMB, Ruhinda Ridge, 2450 m, 19 February 1991. It caught a large flying insect. This species is recorded for the Virunga Volcanoes 30 km to the south (Wilson 1982).

**160 *Falco subbuteo* Hobby** Butynski & Kalina (1989) report this falcon just outside the forest. One was seen by H. Wirth within the forest southeast of Kanyashogye, 2000 m, 27 February 1990 and another by I. Francis, TMB and N. Penford near Rwamunyonyi Hill, 2500 m, 26 October 1991. Wilson (1982) notes that this Palearctic migrant can be seen in the Virunga Volcanoes in small numbers on passage during February to March and October to November. Vande Weghe (1978) suggests that the area between Lake Victoria and the Albertine Rift is the most important transit area for the species.

**214 *Sarothrura rufa* Red-chested Pygmy Crane** One mist-netted by JK, J. S. Ash, J. E. Miskell and TMB in Mubwindi Swamp, 2150 m, 14 February 1990 (Ash *et al.* 1991). Britton (1980) and Short *et al.* (1990) indicate that this is a rare species in Uganda with but three previous records, all from Mengo and Busoga in the eastern part of the country, about 400 km NNE from the Impenetrable.



- 258 *Tringa ochropus* Green Sandpiper** One seen by A. D. Forbes-Watson and TMB, Mubwindi Swamp, 2150 m, 22 February 1991 and one seen by I. Francis, Buhoma, 1500 m, 5 November 1991. A. D. Forbes-Watson also saw one about a kilometre outside the forest at Ruhizha on 17 February 1991. Wilson (1982) records the species in the Virunga Volcanoes.
- 444 *Apus apus* Eurasian Swift** One seen by I. Francis on Rushuura Hill, 1900 m, 8 November 1991. Wilson (1982) records the species on passage from the Virunga Volcanoes in March and September.
- 449 *Apus melba* Alpine Swift** One seen by JK, Buhoma, 1550 m, 17 March 1990 and two by TMB, Two Pond Swamp, 1850 m, 12 September 1991. Recorded for the Virunga Volcanoes by Wilson (1982).
- 479 *Merops albicollis* White-throated Bee-eater** Several seen by A. D. Forbes-Watson and TMB north of Ishasha Gorge, 1350 m, 26 February 1991.
- 491 *Merops pusillus* Little Bee-eater** Two seen by TMB north of Ishasha Gorge, 1300 m, 26 February 1991.
- 504 *Phoeniculus castaneiceps* Forest Wood Hoopoe** Britton (1980) notes this species for the forest but provides no record. A. D. Forbes-Watson saw two at Buhoma, 1500 m, 25 February 1991.
- \*529 *Bucconodon duchailloi* Yellow-spotted Barbet** One heard by A. D. Forbes-Watson and TMB, Buhoma, 1550 m, 25 February 1991 and one heard there by I. Francis and TMB on 2 November 1991. This species was not on our bird list but we notice that Britton (1980) mentions its occurrence in the Impenetrable, source of the record unknown. It has been collected in the Kalinzu Forest about 100 km to the NNE (Friedmann & Williams 1970).
- 634 *Hirundo rustica* Eurasian Swallow** Several seen by A. D. Forbes-Watson and TMB north of Ishasha Gorge, 1350 m, 26 February 1991. Wilson (1982) found it present in the Virunga Volcanoes from August to May and Friedmann & Williams (1970) collected it in the Kalinzu Forest.
- 635 *Hirundo semirufa* Rufous-chested Swallow** Several seen by A. D. Forbes-Watson and TMB, Ruhinda Ridge, 2300 m, 19 February 1991. This sighting is 600 m higher than noted by Britton (1980).
- 637 *Hirundo smithii* Wire-tailed Swallow** Two seen by TMB, Ruhizha, 2350 m, 11 July 1991.
- 651 *Oriolus oriolus* Golden Oriole** One seen by TMB, JK and I. Francis, Ruhizha, 2350 m, 10 November 1991.
- \*699 *Andropadus gracilis* Little Grey Greenbul** One seen by A. D. Forbes-Watson and TMB, Buhoma, 1550 m, 25 February 1991 (the first observer knows the bird well

from Kakamega Forest and West Africa). It is common in the Kalinzu and Maramagambo Forests (Friedmann & Williams 1970, Britton 1980, Short *et al.* 1990) about 50 km NNE and widespread in western Ugandan forests. Its occurrence in the Impenetrable is not surprising.

**709 *Chlorocichla flavicollis* Yellow-throated Leaflove** One seen by JK on forest edge at Ngoto Swamp, 1500 m, 8 November 1990 and another seen by A. D. Forbes-Watson and TMB, Buhoma, 1550 m, 25 February 1991.

**\*800 *Turdus (Zoothera) oberlaenderi* Forest Ground Thrush** T. Gullick recently pointed out to us that Prigogine (1985b) described a specimen of this species collected at 1620 m in the Impenetrable and housed at the Los Angeles County Museum. It had been collected 200 m higher than previously reported (Collar & Stuart 1985). This Red Data Book species is known from a few places in eastern Zaïre, Bwamba Forest in Uganda, and Itombwe Mountains, Zaïre. Its occurrence in the Impenetrable is, therefore, not surprising. The Prigogine reference seems to have been overlooked. Collar & Stuart (1985) and Short *et al.* (1980) make no mention of the bird's occurrence in the Impenetrable. Prigogine himself (1985a) does not list the species so perhaps his list was compiled before he saw the specimen.

**\*971 *Trochocercus cyanomelas* Crested Flycatcher** One adult and a large fledgling seen by TMB, Mubare Hill, 1700 m, 24 April 1989. This conspicuous bird must be rare in the forest as it has only been encountered once.

**\*1042 *Prionops caniceps* Red-billed Helmet Shrike** A. D. Forbes-Watson and TMB saw a flock of about seven flying up Ishasha Gorge, 1200 m, 26 February 1991. Britton (1980) and Short *et al.* (1990) report this species only from Bwamba and Bugoma Forests of western Uganda (700–1100 m), 210 km to the north. It has not been reported in Rwanda (Mackworth-Praed & Grant 1973, Wilson 1982, Dowsett-Lemaire 1990) so the Ishasha Gorge birds represent the southwestern extremity of the species' distribution and the altitude of the site is also slightly higher than previously recorded.

**1134 *Amblyospiza albifrons* Grosbeak Weaver** One seen by JK, Ngoto Swamp, 1280 m, 9 November 1990.

**1293 *Serinus sulphuratus* Brimstone Canary** One seen by TMB, Ruhizha, 2300 m, 9 November 1986. Seen up to 2400 m in the Virunga Volcanoes 30 km to the south (Wilson 1982).

### Bird species seen close to the Impenetrable Forest

Eight species were observed just outside the border of the forest. While they have not been added to the list, they may eventually be found within the forest boundaries.

**89 *Torgos tracheliotus* Lappet-faced Vulture** One seen by H. Wirth 1 km from the forest at Ruhizha, 2200 m, 28 February 1991.

**252 *Actitis hypoleucos* Common Sandpiper** One seen by A. D. Forbes-Watson 1 km from the forest at Ruhizha, 2200 m, 17 February 1991.

**575 *Jynx ruficollis* Red-throated Wryneck** One seen by TMB 1 km from the forest at Ruhizha, 2100 m, 4 July 1989. Also seen near the forest at Buhoma, 1700 m, 1 July 1984 (Butynski & Kalina 1989).

**612 *Mirafra africana* Rufous-naped Lark** Adult found on nest by JK and TMB 1 km from the forest at Ruhizha, 2350 m, 23 February 1988.

**684 *Turdoides plebejus* Brown Babbler** One seen by I. Francis, TMB and N. Penford 1 km from the forest near Kanyashogye, 1700 m, 1 November 1991. This is 200 m higher than noted by Britton (1980).

**751 *Cossypha heuglini* White-browed Robin Chat** One seen by A. D. Forbes-Watson 1 km from the forest at Ruhizha, 2200 m, 17 February 1991.

**982 *Anthus similis* Long-billed Pipit** One seen by TMB and I. Francis on a gravel road, 1 km from the forest at Kanyashogye, 2000 m, 9 July 1991.

**984 *Anthus trivialis* Tree Pipit** One seen by A. D. Forbes-Watson and TMB 20 m from the forest on Ruhinda Ridge, 2400 m, 19 February 1991.

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